

Hunter Middleton and David Lee claimed the top two individual spots to lead Harlan County to the team title in the season-opening Owsley County All-Comers Meet on Thursday.

The Black Bears finished with 26 points to win the race by 40 points over Lee County. Berea was third with 85 points, followed by Wolfe County with 91, Oneida Baptist with 116 and Jackson City with 174.

The Lady Bears were first with 16 points and Owsley County was second with 39.

"I was pleased to open the season with a win by both teams," said Harlan County coach Ryan Vitatoe. "We definitely have the potential to have a good season, but we have a long way to go to reach that potential. We have to get back to work the next few days to get ready for our next meet. I expect the field will be much more competitive and we'll have to run a whole lot better to perform well as a team. There were many bright spots in this performance, and what I've enjoyed about this team so far is the desire to improve from our number one runner down. We have to keep that mentality to reach the goals coach (Darrell) Sergent and I have for them this season."

Middleton finished with a time of 18:24 to win the race, 18 seconds ahead of David Lee. Jacob Carroll was seventh at 20:32 and Josh Hamlin placed eighth at 20:44. Other runners for Harlan County included Corey Hornsby (11th), Josh Wynn (12th), Caleb Bailey (14th), Blain Grubbs (15th), Caleb Justen (19th), Nathan Donahue (26th), Noah Hughes (28th), Donovan Johnson (30th) and Tyler Turner (31st).

Kim Miller, of Harlan County, was 32nd overall and first in the girls race with a time of 24:05. Miranda Epperson placed 49th overall and had the second best time among the HCHS female runners at 26:47. Other runners for HCHS included Kassie Rouse (55th), Cassidy Ball (66th), Kym Wilson (69th), Gabby Collier (70th), Arryn Jackson (77th) and Corisa Daniels (84th).

Alison Cornett was 13th and Summer Garrett placed 20th in the middle school division.

Breanna Epperson was second in the grade school division. Alex Lewis was fourth, Drake Ward was eighth and Madison Blanton was ninth.